

The Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An espresso coffee machine for a low-voltage vehicle, the machine comprising a water tank, a pump, a heating element, a brewing head wherein the water tank is fluidly connected to a pump for pumping water from the tank to a heating element which is itself fluidly connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure for closing the head comprising a mechanism for moving the closure from an open
10 position to a closed position and vice versa and a coffee dispensing pipe associated with the closure to provide an outlet for brewed coffee, and a connection for engaging an electric power supply, wherein the heating of the heating element is switched off or works at reduced power when the pump is running.
- 15 2. The coffee machine according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism for moving the closure is a sliding system and a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element.
- 20 3. The coffee machine according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism for moving the closure is a jaw system and a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element.
- 25 4. The coffee machine according to claim 1, wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage, and the machine is configured and dimensioned to be filled, operated and emptied by one hand.
- 30 5. The coffee machine according to claim 1, further comprising a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges.
- 35 6. The coffee machine according to claim 1, further comprising a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath the outlet for the brewed coffee.
7. An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water to a heating element, which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, and a coffee dispensing pipe

associated with the closure, in which machine the mechanism for closing the head is a sliding or jaw system, and the machine being connected to an electric power supply.

8. The coffee machine according to claim 7, further comprising a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element, and wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage, and the machine is configured and dimensioned to be filled, operated and emptied by one hand.

9. The coffee machine according to claim 7, further comprising a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges.

10. The coffee machine according to claim 7, further comprising a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath the outlet for the brewed coffee.

11. An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water to a heating element, which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, and a coffee dispensing pipe on the closure, in which machine the brewing head comprises a ring to allow manual ejection of used cartridges, the machine being connected to an electric power supply.

12. The coffee machine according to claim 11, further comprising a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element, and wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage, and the machine is configured and dimensioned to be filled, operated and emptied by one hand.

13. The coffee machine according to claim 11, further comprising a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges.

14. The coffee machine according to claim 11, further comprising a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath the outlet for the brewed coffee.

15. An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water to a heating element, which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, a coffee dispensing pipe associated

with the closure to provide an outlet for brewed coffee, and a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath the outlet of the coffee dispensing pipe, with the device connected to an electric power supply.

5 16. The coffee machine according to claim 15, further comprising a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element, and wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage, and the machine is configured and dimensioned to be filled, operated and emptied by one hand.

10 17. A method for preparing an espresso coffee of uniform quality in a low-voltage vehicle, in which the following steps are followed using a device for preparing an espresso coffee:

- a heating element is heated,
- 15 - the heating of the element is switched off or reduced,
- the water is pumped through the element,
- a cartridge of coffee is brewed with the heated water from the element, and
- the brewed coffee is collected in a container.

20 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage so that it can be switched off or reduced by a controller while the water is being pumped through the element.

25 19. A method for preparing an espresso coffee of uniform quality in a low-voltage vehicle, using a device for preparing an espresso coffee by pumping hot water through the device at a controlled temperature and pressure.

30 20. A method for preparing an espresso coffee of uniform quality in a low-voltage vehicle using a device for preparing an espresso coffee, in which method the coffee is delivered through the device into a container in a secure manner.